

HB 837 -- Food Prepared for Fundraising Events

Sponsor: Fraker

Currently, the sale of food that is not potentially hazardous by religious, charitable, or nonprofit organizations at religious events or charitable functions and activities is exempt from all state laws and regulations relating to food inspection. This bill specifies that if a religious, charitable, or nonprofit organization prepares potentially hazardous food in a private home or other area for distribution to the end consumer at a fundraising event for a charitable purpose, the organization must:

(1) Notify consumers that the food was prepared in a kitchen that is not subject to regulation and inspection by the local public health authority by a clearly visible placard at the serving location; and

(2) Notify the local public health authority in writing at least 14 days before the beginning of the event and that include the following information:

(a) The name of the organization;

(b) The date, time, and location of the event;

(c) The name and contact information of the person responsible for the event; and

(d) A list of all foods that will be prepared.

These provisions do not apply to food prepared for a fundraising event by a restaurant, caterer, or other establishment that is subject to regulation and inspection by the Department of Health and Senior Services and only applies to the sale of foods at fundraising events that are open to the public and are held for the sole purpose of raising funds. The department has the authority to establish rules and regulations that exclude foods and practices that are associated with an elevated risk of foodborne illness and to limit the frequency and duration of any events.